Montreux Jazz Festival
ARTISTS FOUNDATION

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PRESS RELEASE

The Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation announces the 7th edition of its autumn residency

14 – 17 OCTOBER 2026 | PETIT PALAIS, FAIRMONT LE MONTREUX PALACE

Montreux Jazz Festival RESIDENCY

The Montreux Jazz Festival Residency brings together emerging talent and leading figures from the jazz, soul and R&B scenes, from 14 to 17 October 2026, at the Petit Palais of the Fairmont Le Montreux Palace. Each evening from 6pm, the residency opens its doors to the public for a free programme of concerts, showcases, workshops, jam sessions and DJ set. Among the artists taking part: Fatoumata Diawara, Brian Jackson, Vincen García, Camilla George, Mino Cinelu, Jean Phi Dary, Afra Kane, Lakiko, Amy Gadiaga and Makeda Krish.

Now in its seventh consecutive year, the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation's (MJAF) autumn festival is built around a **one-of-a-kind artistic residency**. Eight emerging bands – four Swiss and four international – have been selected to take part in this rich programme. Over four intensive days, each will perform on stage, exchange with renowned mentors, sharpen their craft alongside fellow musicians, and deepen their understanding of key industry issues alongside experts in music, copyright, technology and media.

Each evening from 6pm, the Petit Palais **opens its doors to the public**, offering a rare closeness between audiences, emerging talent and the residency's mentors. Entirely free of charge, this four-night festival features a packed programme of workshops, showcases, concerts and jam sessions, culminating in a closing party on the final night. The audience is invited to vote for their favourite band as part of **the Prix Coup de Cœur**, sponsored by bank **Julius Baer**.

The mentors

Six renowned artists from the worlds of jazz, funk, soul and African music will guide the residency's emerging talent:

- A leading figure of the Malian scene, singer and guitarist **Fatoumata Diawara** blends the Wassoulou tradition with funk, afrobeat, jazz and rock influences. She has performed at the MJF on several occasions, notably with the Lamomali collective alongside Matthieu Chedid (-M-).
- American multi-instrumentalist **Brian Jackson** laid the foundations of conscious soul alongside Gil Scott-Heron throughout the 1970s. His iconic work on the Rhodes keyboard and flute has been sampled by hip-hop's biggest names, from Tupac to Kendrick Lamar.
- French-Martinican percussionist **Mino Cinelu** has played alongside Sting, Kate Bush and Stevie Wonder. He joined Miles Davis's band at just 24 and paid tribute to him this summer in Montreux alongside Marcus Miller.
- French keyboardist of Guyanese descent **Jean Phi Dary** played alongside Tony Allen for more than twenty years. He performed at the MJF in 2021 with his electro-jazz project The Paradox, a duo with Jeff Mills, immortalised on a Live at Montreux album.
- One of the most streamed bassists in the world, **Vincen García** has toured with Cory Wong and Jesús Molina. The Spanish musician performed with his own jazz-funk band at the MJF in 2024.
- Saxophonist and composer **Camilla George**, born in Nigeria and based in London, has collaborated with Shabaka Hutchings, Nubya Garcia and Soweto Kinch. She performed at the MJAF Nights at the Montreux Jazz Festival in 2025.

The resident bands

Eight emerging bands – four Swiss and four international – have been selected by the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation to take part in the residency's activities and perform live.

The international acts: Nigerian-Canadian singer **DVYN** blends R&B, soul and jazz into timeless arrangements with a contemporary edge; Turkish project **Talking Rocks**, led by producer Alptug Chavez, draws as much on its Anatolian roots as on electronic, rock and psychedelic influences; British artist **Hetta Falzon** delivers a delicate, timeless voice shaped by classical training and pop songwriting; Milanese four-piece **Il Mago Del Gelato** takes listeners on a journey through American jazz-funk, afrobeat and the atmosphere of 1960s Italian cinema.

The Swiss acts: Zurich-based duo **Migi & Rubén** pair irresistible funk grooves with Swiss-German lyrics; Bernese singer **Shanga**, born to a Nigerian father and a Swiss mother, crafts a pop-soul sound shaded with afro, jazz and hip-hop influences, which she calls "Rhythmic Soul"; Zurich duo **Samson Philipps** build a dense, cinematic sound from just two instruments, blending contemporary jazz with drum'n'bass, jungle and trip-hop influences; Brazilian artist **Bella Nobre**, based in the Lake Geneva region since 2020, draws on Anglo-American R&B and Brazilian tropicalismo.

All eight bands will benefit from the residency's activities, including collective playing sessions led by the mentors, as well as thematic workshops and panel discussions with music industry experts covering economic, media and technological issues. The MJAF also supports each band in developing their digital and audiovisual content, offering them a series of **portraits by photographer Anoush Abrar** as well as a **video recording of their concert**, to be published on the Montreux Jazz Festival's YouTube channel. These materials will help them put their best foot forward with audiences – and, crucially, with agents and programmers.

Public Programme

→ 6PM · WORKSHOPS

A highlight of the MJAF's programme, the public workshops allow artists to share their knowledge and express themselves – often through music – on a subject of their choosing. **Brian Jackson** will explore jazz as a vehicle for resistance, while **Vincen García** will unpack the mechanics of groove, slap and ghost notes. Two unprecedented duos will also take shape for the occasion: **Fatoumata Diawara** and **Jean Phi Dary** will bring together voice and keys, while **Camilla George** and **Mino Cinelu** will pair saxophone and percussion.

→ 7PM · SHOWCASES

These intimate solo and duo performances take place in the Coupole du Petit Palais. The showcase line-up spotlights a series of artists who have received support from the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation: **Amy Gadiaga**, French double bassist and singer based between London and Paris, nominated for a MOBO Award in the "Best Jazz Act" category; **Kemani Anderson**, singer and founder of the band Secret Night Gang, performing as a duo with London-based keyboardist **Luke Bacchus**, a BBC Young Jazz Musician 2022 finalist; **Lakiko**, a cellist crafting boundless soundscapes that blend classical virtuosity with improvisation, performing as a duo with Neuchâtel-based pianist **Laurent Nicoud**; and **Afra Kane**, an Italian singer and pianist based in Switzerland, drawing on classical, gospel, soul and jazz influences, and winner of the 2019 Montreux Jazz Talent Award.

→ 8PM & 9PM · CONCERTS

The residency's concerts showcase the projects of the eight emerging bands selected by the Foundation *(see above)*. Each evening, one Swiss band and one international band will take to the stage in turn. The audience is invited to vote for their favourite band as part of the **Prix Coup de Cœur, sponsored by Julius Baer**.

→ FROM 22:15 · JAM SESSIONS & CLOSING PARTY

Every evening, the residency's musicians come together for jam sessions, led by a trio comprising **Daisy George** (bass – UK), **Luke Bacchus** (keys – UK/GY) and **Zoe Pascal** (drums – PT), all three members of the in-house band for the jam sessions held during the Montreux Jazz Festival. On Saturday, a performance bringing together the residency's mentors and bands will be followed by the closing party, with London-based DJ, radio host and producer **Makeda Krish**.

ABOUT THE MONTREUX JAZZ ARTISTS FOUNDATION

A recognised public-interest organisation, the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation (MJAF) supports emerging talent and fosters exchange through a universal language: music. Founded in 2007, the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation pursues two core objectives: discovering and supporting young artists at the start of their careers, and making music accessible to all. Throughout the year, the MJAF creates meaningful discoveries and encounters through its artistic residencies, outreach activities and talent development programmes. These projects are funded entirely by private donations and public grants.

Programme grid ↓ | Press Kit ↓ | Visual kit ↓

PRESS AREA

www.montreuxjazzfestival.com/en/press

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